

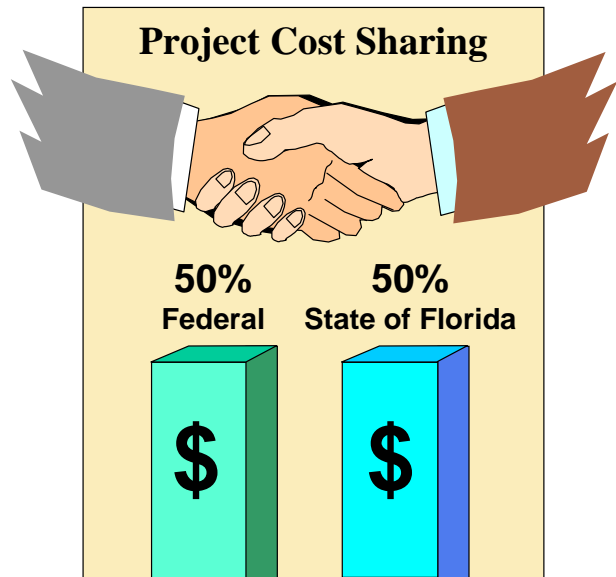
## Implementation Cost is Investment in the Nation's Future

The costs to implement the Comprehensive Plan are substantial, but they will be spread out over many years and shared by the federal government and the state of Florida. Like many other public works projects costing billions of dollars, implementing the Plan is an investment in the nation's future. With this investment, we can restore this unique ecosystem and leave a legacy for future generations. If we do not make the investment now, we will suffer the irretrievable loss of the Everglades.

The estimated cost to implement the Comprehensive Plan is \$7.8 billion. It will also cost approximately \$182 million each year to operate, maintain, and monitor the Plan. Taken together over the more than 20 years needed to implement the Plan, the Plan's annual costs amount to just over \$400 million. In general, the federal government will pay half the cost, and the state of Florida and the South Florida Water Management District will pay the other half.

During the design phase, we will seek opportunities to reduce the cost of the Plan. For instance, we will minimize the number of control structures such as pumps and spillways. We will also use passive control structures such as weirs wherever feasible. This is likely to reduce construction and operational costs for the Plan.

While implementing the Comprehensive Plan is a large investment, the overall cost of



inaction is enormous. The Everglades will continue to die. Increased water shortages, diminished agricultural production, and reduced tourism will have real and substantial effects on Florida's economy. The survival of federal public lands, including national parks, wildlife refuges, and marine sanctuary and tribal trust lands, is an issue of national interest. Most importantly, the overall long-term beneficial effects of the Comprehensive Plan far exceed its costs. In the final analysis, we believe that implementing the Comprehensive Plan is an important and necessary investment for the nation.

*(For more information, please refer to Section 9, The Recommended Comprehensive Plan, in the final report.)*

What Do Other Major Public Investments Cost?		
\$	\$1.8 billion	Woodrow Wilson Bridge Replacement
	\$4.2 billion	Denver International Airport
	\$8.5 billion	New York City Water Project
	\$9-10.5 billion	CALFED (California) Bay-Delta Program
	\$10.8 billion	Boston Artery and Tunnel